

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SP-02 SAJ-01 L-02 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8637

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 4205

USDOC FOR PEWT/DOWNEY

PASS TREASURY FOR PARSKY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BGEN BTRA UR US CVIS

SUBJ: ISSUES WHICH SOVIETS MAY RAISE AT JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION
MEETING -- U.S. COMMERICAL VISA PRACTICES

REF: MOSCOW 4108

1. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES AWARE, SOVIETS HAVE OF LATE
EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE DISSATISFACTION WITH U.S. PROCEDURES
FOR PROCESSING COMMERCIAL VISAS APPLICATIONS (SEE MOSCOW
0186 AND MOSCOW A-18 REPORTING ON FOREIGN MINISTRY APPROACH
ON THIS MATTER.) TO CERTAIN EXTENT, SOVIET DISPLEASURE
WAS GENERATED BY INTRODUCTION OF REQUIREMENT IN AUGUST 1974
UNDER COMVIS/BUSVIS PROGRAM THAT THEY REQUEST EXCEPTIONS
TO U.S. CLOSED AREA RESTRICTIONS FOR COMMERICAL VISITORS,
AND RECENT MODERATION OF U.S. REQUIREMENT IN THIS AREA
(STATE 44045) SHOULD SUBSTANTIALLY ALLEVIATE PROBLEMS.

2. NONETHELESS, EMBASSY BELIEVES U.S. DELEGATION SHOULD
BE READY FOR SOVIET PRESENTATION ON COMMERICAL VISAS WHICH
WILL COMPLAIN ABOUT: A) LENGTH OF TIME REQUIRED FOR
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ISSUANCE OF COMMERCIAL VISITOR VISAS: B) AMOUNT OF

DETAIL REQUIRED IN APPLICATIONS; AND C) REFUSALS AND NON-ISSUANCE OF VISAS IN CERTAIN CASES, SUCH AS V.N. UKHLIN OF INTOURIST. SOVIETS WILL CLAIM, INTER ALIA, THAT BUSVIS PROGRAM, DESPITE ELIMINATION OF REQUIREMENT THAT SOVIETS REQUEST CLOSED AREA EXCEPTIONS WHEN INVITED BY U.S. FIRMS, REPRESENTS STEP BACKWARD.

3. ANOTHER IDEA WHICH SOVIETS MIGHT SURFACE AT MEETING IS POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING LISTS OF U.S. BUSINESSMEN AND SOVIET COMMERCIAL OFFICIALS WHO WOULD BE GIVEN VISAS IN PARTICULARLY EXPEDITIOUS FASHION. THIS SUGGESTION WAS FLOATED BY FOREIGN TRADE MINISTRY PROTOCOL CHIEF RAKHMANIN DURING RECENT MEETING WITH ECON/COMM COUNSELOR AND COMMATT. LATTER TOLD RAKHMANIN THAT HE DID NOT BELIEVE THIS WAS FEASIBLE SUGGESTION, BUT SOVIETS MAY ADVANCE IT IN ANY EVENT. MORE RECENTLY, REPRESENTATIVES OF ACCREDITED FIRMS WHO HAVE MET WITH RAKHMANIN HAVE FOUND HIM FULL OF IMPLIED THREATS OF ACTION AGAINST RESIDENT U.S. BUSINESSMEN UNLESS SITUATION REGARDING U.S.COMMERICAL VISAS IMPORVED.

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